

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5834

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

DEPT OF ARMY

PROJECT MANAGER SANG RIYADH

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 6167

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, SA, US

SUBJECT: SANG GRADUATION CEREMONIES

1. SANG MODERNIZATION PROJECT MANAGER, BG LAWRENCE, IS TRAVELLING TO WASHINGTON SEPTEMBER 12 WITH VIP INVITATIONS FROM PRINCE ABDULLAH, COMMANDER OF THE NATIONAL GUARD, TO ATTEND THE GRADUATION CEREMONIES OF THE FIRST MODERNIZED SANG BATTALION 18-20 OCTOBER. AMBASSADOR PORTER OR HIS DESIGNEE HAS ALSO BEEN INVITED.

2. BG LAWRENCE INFORMS US THAT THE LIST INCLUDES THE SECRETARY OF STATE PLUS SECDEF, DEP SECDEF, SECRETARY OF ARMY, UNDER SECRETARY OF ARMY, ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, AND FIVE OTHERS, ALL FROM DOD. GENERAL LAWRENCE AND THE EMBASSY FEEL THAT THE LIKELIHOOD OF GETTING SUCH A HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION TO SAUDI ARABIA IS REMOTE. HOWEVER WE URGE THAT DOD/OSD SEND A REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE CEREMONY.

3. BECAUSE THE SANG MOU CALLS FOR AN ANNUAL COUNTRY-TO-COUNTRY REVIEW MEETING, THE GRADUATION CEREMONIES WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OTHER DEPARTMENT AND DOD OFFICIALS TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA AND GET A FIRST-HAND LOOK AT ONE OF THE US MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. GENERAL LAWRENCE INFORMS US THAT PRINCE ABDULLAH'S INV-
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TATION IS MEANT TO COVER THE TRAVEL OF THOSE INVITED

(ROUND TRIP FROM THE US) AND ACCOMMODATIONS IN RIYADH.
THIS WOULD BE DONE UNDER THE TERMS OF FULL SAUDI REIMBURSE-
MENT FOR THE PROGRAM.

4. AMBASSADOR PORTER WILL BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY AND DCM
HORAN WILL ATTEND AS CHARGE AND THE SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE US CONTINGENT. HOWEVER THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH
TO HANDLE THE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FOR STATE AND DOD
ATTENDEES, WE SUGGEST (IN VIEW OF INVITATION EXTENDED TO
THE SECRETARY) THAT A SENIOR STATE OFFICIAL SUCH AS DIRECTOR
OF THE BUREAU OF POLITICO-MILITARY AFFAIRS GEORGE VEST
MIGHT CONSIDER ATTENDING GRADUATION EXERCISES.

5. SINCE THE GRADUATION IS LESS THAN SIX WEEKS AWAY,
WE WOULD LIKE TO BE IN A POSITION TO INFORM THE SAUDIS
OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE AMERICAN DELEGATION AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE. WE HAVE ASKED BG LAWRENCE TO CONTACT ARP WHEN
HE ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON.
PORTER

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